

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the pending claims as being anticipated by the Jaussi reference (USP 6,501,256). In that regard, Applicants described on page 6 of the specification, the PTAT voltage is inversely proportional to the resistance of variable resistor R1 of Figure 2. In turn, such a dependence indicates that the PTAT voltage is proportional to the conductance of R1. Because of process uncertainties, the conductance of R1 is designed to range from a minimum conductance to a maximum conductance set by, e.g., resistor R₁₀ of Figure 3. Regardless of the actuation of switches S₁₁ through S₁₄, the conductance of resistor R₁₀ sets a minimum for the overall conductance since this resistor is not switched in or out.

In turn, the ratio R2/R1 will have a minimum determined by R₁₀. As discussed on page 7 of the specification, suppose the bandgap reference properties are such that the ratio R2/R1 (which was also denoted as α) is expected to equal 10. R₁₀ could then be chosen such that the minimum value for R2/R1 was 8, which could then be incremented up to 12 depending upon the switch values. Claim 1 reflects such an advantageous sampling of this ratio by reciting the limitation of "a first variable resistor including a first resistor and a plurality of second resistors, wherein each of the second resistors is adapted to be selectively combined in parallel with the first resistor such that a conductance of the first variable resistor equals a sum of a conductance for the first resistor and a combined conductance for the selected second resistors." No new matter is added, the support being as just described.

The Jaussi reference stands in sharp contrast because the ratio is not advantageously sampled in this fashion. Instead, because the Jaussi reference teaches or

suggests no fixed resistor such as the R_{10} just described, Jaussi cannot finely sample around the "sweet spot" (the expected R_2/R_1 value). Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable over the Jaussi reference. Claim 5 was amended to address a minor informality.

Claims 10 and 13 have been amended analogously as discussed with regard to claim 1 such that these claims and their dependents are also allowable over the Jaussi reference. Claims 15, 16, and 17 were amended to address minor informalities.

In addition, the specification was amended to correct minor typographical errors.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, pending Claims 1 -- 17 are in condition for allowance and allowance of the application is hereby solicited.

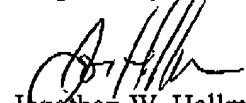
If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned at (949) 752-7040 is welcomed and encouraged.

Certification of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

 March 17, 2006
Sandra Carr Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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